Inclusion of food processing industry in SSI

3353. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered to include food processing industry in small scale industry so that more employment is provided with less investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) All industrial undertakings, including those in the food processing industry, in which the investment in fixed assets in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. one crore are regarded as small scale industries (SSI) units.

India-Bangladesh FTA

3354. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh signed a bilateral Free Trade Agreement during the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement reached and signed;

(c) whether both the countries signed a MoU on issues of standards between designated institutions of the two countries for removal of all non-tariff barriers; and

(d) to what extent the trade between the two countries could further be imporved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The total trade between India and Bangladesh for the year 2003-04 was US$ 1818 million which got reduced to US$ 1641 million during the